

	Full Council
Date	14 September 2026
Agenda Item	10

To consider an update on the proposed Community Arts Centre

There have been a number of developments in the Community Arts Centre project in August 2026.

The Expression of Interest to the Arts Council was turned down on 17 August, as it was felt that the Arts Centre did not meet the aims of the funding stream.

The application to register the CIO with the Charity Commission was turned down as it did not meet the criteria of having a charitable purpose.

The project group considers that setting up a Community Interest Company would therefore best serve the Council and the project going forward.

Also, following the resignation of Janet Atkinson as a Councillor, a place is open for another Councillor to take her place on the project group (potential CIC).

The Planning application for the project has been completed by Paul Foster, and the Business case is also ready for submission to BDC subject to a final stress test which will be completed to enable submission on 18th September

Contact with businesses in the town is being maintained by group member Christine Calver.

A meeting was held with The Empire Theatre Trust on 3 September.

A meeting was held with The Empire Theatre Trust, after they had raised significant concerns and the attached report from the project group outlines the current situation, and supports the recommendations below:

A meeting of the project group on 7 September agreed

That the plans submitted to HTC be submitted for planning approval and the fee of not more than £2000 paid.

The application for the Registration of Halstead Community Arts Centre C.I.C. be approved

The report from the Project Group be noted and that the Council agrees the actions outlined.

Recommendation:

1. That HTC approves the planning application and planning statement and that it be submitted at a cost of £2000
2. That HTC notes the revised business plan and supports its submission by the project group (CIC awaiting registration)
3. That HTC nominates a councillor to join the Halstead Community Arts Centre CIC
4. That HTC agrees to the application to Companies House for the Halstead Community Arts Centre C.I.C. to be a CIC under guarantee with limited membership subject to legal advice and relevant financial approval
5. That HTC notes the update.



Sarah Greateorex Town Clerk